

SONORA TIGER SALAMANDER
(Ambystoma tigrinum stebbinsi)

STATUS: Endangered (62 FR 665, January 6, 1997) without critical habitat.

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: A large salamander with light-colored blotches or reticulations on a dark background. Metamorphosed individuals are 4.5-15.0 cm (1.8-5.9 inches) in snout to vent length. Larval individuals are aquatic with plume-like gills and well developed tail fins.

HABITAT: Breeds in stock tanks. Terrestrial salamanders probably spend much of the year in rodent burrows, rotted logs, and other moist cover sites. Typical habitat ranges in elevation from 1,219 to 1,920 m (4,000 to 6,300 ft).

RANGE: Historic: The species probably inhabited springs, streams, backwaters, and cienegas containing a permanent or nearly permanent water source in the area of San Rafael Valley, Arizona and Sonora, Mexico.

Current: Breeds at about 50 sites located within a 31 km (19 mile) radius of Lochiel, Arizona. All sites are within the headwaters of the Santa Cruz and San Pedro rivers. These include sites in San Rafael Valley, and the foothills of the Patagonia and Huachuca mountains, located in Santa Cruz and Cochise counties, Arizona, and Sonora, Mexico.

REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY: The species faces a number of threats, including disease and predation by non-native fish, bullfrogs, and crayfish; use as fishing bait; interbreeding with other species of tiger salamander, habitat destruction, and the increased probability of small populations being extirpated due to local random events (such as drought or disease).

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: U.S. Forest Service at Coronado National Forest, Fort Huachuca, State of Arizona, and private.

NOTES: Listed as a Species of Special Concern by the State of Arizona.

A draft recovery plan is available online at
<http://arizonaes.fws.gov/Documents/DocumentsBySpecies/SonoraTigerSalamander/Son%20Tiger%20Sal%20RP%20600.pdf>

A final recovery plan is expected late 2001.